

Final Race of the 2018 Spring Series, 03 July 2018

Ok, here we are. All the shouting is over as the boats assemble offshore for the last race of the Spring Series. Whatever you did the first week or last week is in the past. The outcome of this one race will decide the Series flags. There won't be another race this important until the final race of the season in September.

Here is what we know as the race begins: In Spinn, Welly starts with a narrow 2 point lead over Distraction, with Imagine, sistership to Welly, 4 points further back in third. In JaM the racing is a bit tighter, with a tie between Moody Blue and Carrera and Fuzzy Logic lurking close behind in third 4 points back. Total points spread for the top five boats in Spinn is 20; for the top five in JaM is 9.

Manning the RC Boat this week are Mike Kinney, ably assisted by Wayne and Louie Tremblay. Mike set a classic course on this most important race, a triangle with Beat, Beam Reach, and Close Reach legs, once around for JaM and twice for Spinnaker. He also set a "Ken Z Special" starting line" which was nice and square to the first leg but maybe a bit shorter than usual. No fog this week, just about 7 - 11 knots of breeze out of the North at the start with flat seas and the promise of differing wind speeds as the evening wore on. In running the race, Mike was, as always, the most magnanimous man on the microphone, quickly and cheerfully answering any questions thrown his way by the racers.

Spinn went first and several boats got hung up on the shorter starting line in the fresh air. JaM was next and Moody Blue ran so far down the line, she almost couldn't clear the mark at the Port end. For the first lap of the course, the wind held up well. But later, it went light.

The Jammers came in first, and many carried strong breezes with them as they finished. Moody Blue and Carrera fought all the way around the Triangle, often within a few boat lengths of each other, with Carrera holding onto their early lead to correct out over Moody by about a minute and a half. This was the first time Carrera beat Moody since the opening race of the season. Dan Emery was about another minute and a half back in third, with Doc Sisson in Winsome in fourth ahead of Keith Sawyer in fifth.

Spinnaker is more complicated as many boats got swamped on the second lap of the course when the air went light later in the evening. Here is a report from onboard Patrick Nelson's Captain Blood:

The wind died on the last leg for us just before the leaders finished...but stayed up near shore. We were less than a mile from the finish and the current was pushing us. The wind at the top of the mast was from a different direction from the wind on the water (both less than a knot). We dropped our sails and decided to flake the main while on the water and open the cooler figuring it would be hotter on land to clean up the boat. About that time boats started dropping out, especially those not on the last leg. We got everything put away

and, wala...the wind picked up. So we raised the jib and finished with boat speeds of 5.5-6 knots Jib only as we knew that handicaps didn't matter anymore.

Welly captured the win with a huge margin over Distraction of over nine minutes, and Silk sailed well to capture third about nine minutes behind Distraction. Silk was about fourteen and a half minutes ahead of Imagine in fourth, with Captain Blood about nine minutes behind Imagine in fifth. These exceptionally wide finish times are caused by light and shifty winds as the weather pattern changed.

Flags for the Spinnaker Spring Series will be awarded to Wellenreiter in First, who put three points between them and Distraction, in Second. Third place flag goes to Imagine, a Farr 395 sistership of Welly, six points behind Distraction. Welly had a terrific Series, which included four first place finishes. Distraction had two first place finishes and Imagine had one. Welly threw out their worst finish, which was a 4th, while Distraction and Imagine both threw out 7th place finishes as their throw outs.

Flags for the JaM Spring Series will be awarded to Carrera, who finished a single point ahead of the hard-charging Moody Blue in Second, who was five points ahead of Fuzzy Logic in Third. Carrera had three first places, Moody had two, and Winsome had one. Carrera's worst finish was a 2nd and threw out two second place finishes for a total of 4 points as throw-outs. Moody threw out a 7th and a DNC for a total of 17 points, while Fuzzy Logic tossed a 5th and a DNC for a total of 15 points.

So that's now in the record books. And the fun part is, we start over next week, with a clean slate for everyone. If you missed your chance in the Spring, you'll have a bunch of new chances starting next Wednesday night, 11 July, for the start of the Summer Series. Each boat needs to insure they are signed up for the Summer Series to be scored on Regatta Network. There is no extra charge for this.

After next week, we do not sail another Series race until Wednesday, August 01. We will have a special Staggered Start race on Wednesday 18 July, where Spinn and JaM sail together. Note also that once we are back to the Summer Series after the Mac Race break, on Friday night 03 August, the Spinnaker Section will have a brand new night navigation race around the Cook Nuclear Plant Buoy.

Hearty Congratulations to our Spring Series Flag Winners. For everyone else, best of luck in the Summer Series. Our sincere thanks to Mike Kinney for running a great race, and to Wayne and Louie Tremblay for assisting. Jim Scholz has been out of town this week to be with a family member who is ill. Our thoughts are with him.

Best regards, Jim Schrager

The Windward Sheet, established by Ken Zimmerman at a place nearby in a time long ago, follows the SJRYC Sail Race fleet and is published at irregular intervals throughout the racing season.